

In re Patent Application of:  
**DENNIS**  
Serial No. **Not Yet Assigned**  
Filing Date: **Herewith**

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In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 16.

Please add new Claims 17 to 45.

17. A method of encoding data in a solid state image sensor, the method comprising:

applying color processing to the array of pixels, with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels; and

varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding data therein.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein applying the color processing comprises applying a color filter mosaic to the array of pixels; and wherein varying the color processing comprises varying a pattern of the color filter mosaic applied to the plurality of border pixels.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises color filter material; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises removing the color filter material from selected border pixels.

20. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a plurality of color filter layers; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises applying the plurality of color filter layers

In re Patent Application of:

**DENNIS**

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Filing Date: **Herewith**

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to selected border pixels.

21. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a Bayer pattern color filter mosaic based upon a plurality of color filter elements; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises encoding one bit of binary data in two adjacent blocks of four pixels of the Bayer pattern color filter mosaic by varying the color filter elements applied to one pixel of one of the two adjacent blocks.

22. A method according to Claim 17, wherein applying the color processing comprises applying a microlens array to the array of pixels; and wherein varying the color processing comprises varying a pattern of the microlens array applied to the plurality of border pixels.

23. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes a color process code.

24. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes a mask revision code.

25. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes a product code.

26. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a start code and an end code.

In re Patent Application of:  
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27. A method of encoding data in a solid state image sensor, the method comprising:

applying color processing to the array of pixels using a color filter mosaic, with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels; and

varying a pattern of the color filter mosaic for varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding data therein.

28. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises color filter material; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises removing the color filter material from selected border pixels.

29. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a plurality of color filter layers; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises applying the plurality of color filter layers to selected border pixels.

30. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the color filter mosaic comprises a Bayer pattern color filter mosaic based upon a plurality of color filter elements; and wherein varying the pattern of the color filter mosaic comprises encoding one bit of binary data in two adjacent blocks of four pixels of the Bayer pattern color filter mosaic by varying the color filter elements applied to one pixel of one of the two adjacent blocks.

10072460-020702

In re Patent Application of:

**DENNIS**

Serial No. **Not Yet Assigned**

Filing Date: **Herewith**

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31. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

32. A method of encoding data in a solid state image sensor, the method comprising:

applying color processing to the array of pixels using a microlens array, with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels; and

varying a pattern of the microlens array for varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding data therein.

33. A method according to Claim 32, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

34. A method of reading data encoded in a solid state image sensor comprising an array of pixels, the data being encoded by applying color processing to the array of pixels with the array of pixels comprising a plurality of border pixels, and by varying the color processing applied to the plurality of border pixels for encoding the data therein, the method comprising:

illuminating the array of pixels; and

processing signals output from the plurality of border pixels, with the signals corresponding to the encoded

In re Patent Application of:  
**DENNIS**  
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data.

35. A method according to Claim 34, further comprising storing the data read from the solid state image sensor.

36. A method according to Claim 34, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

37. A solid state image sensor system comprising:  
an array of pixels comprising a plurality of border  
pixels;

said plurality of border pixels having data encoded therein by color processing.

38. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, wherein said array of pixels comprises a color filter mosaic encoding the data.

39. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 38, wherein said color filter mosaic comprises color filter material on selected border pixels.

40. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 38, wherein said color filter mosaic comprises a plurality of color filter layers on selected border pixels.

In re Patent Application of:  
**DENNIS**  
Serial No. **Not Yet Assigned**  
Filing Date: **Herewith**

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41. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 38, wherein said color filter mosaic comprises a Bayer pattern color filter mosaic having a pattern comprising one encoded bit of binary data in two adjacent blocks of four pixels.

42. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, wherein said array of pixels comprises a microlens array encoding the data.

43. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, wherein the encoded data includes at least one of a color process code, a mask revision code, a product code, a start code and an end code.

44. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, further comprising a processor for processing the encoded data read from said plurality of border pixels.

45. A solid state image sensor system according to Claim 37, further comprising a memory for storing the encoded data read from said plurality of border pixels.

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**REMARKS**

It is believed that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art. For better readability and the Examiner's convenience, the newly submitted claims differ from the translated counterpart claims which are being canceled. The newly submitted claims do not represent changes or amendments

10072450-020702